relating to per capita Central Assistance to State Governments.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian Navy

549. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report 'Jane's Fighting Ship' appearing in "The Statesmen", dated the 25th August, 1995 stating that the "Indian Navy is in decline" and the Indian Express's report, dated the 10th September, 1995 that "Budget cuts leave only 40 per cent of Navy Seaworthy", and

(b) what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There had been some slowing down in naval procurements due to the resource crunch. Several acquisitions have been approved/made recently to maintain the force level and enhance operational capability. These include a Training Ship from the UK and a Tanker from Russia and a Sail Training Ship, four Fast Attack Crafts, two Missile Boats and 10 Dornier aircraft from indigenous sources. In addition, some major proposals relating to acquisition of ships, submarines and aircraft are in the pipelines.

The non-availability of Russian spares followed by the disintegration of the ersthwile USSR had also affected the Navy. With the new found access to the Original Equipment Manufactures, many of the spares requirements of the Navy have been met.

Construction Janta Houses in Punjab

550. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Janta houses conctructed for the weaker sections of the society in Punjab during the last three years, district-wise?

(b) the Central assistance given by Government to Punjab during this period;

(c) the steps taken by Government to construct more Janta houses for the aforesaid people in Punjab; and

(d) the assistance given by Government both as grants and loan for the purpose during the current financial year;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION) (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) It has been reported by the Government of Punjab that there is no Janta Housing Scheme in the State of Punjab. However, houses have been constructed for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society, which constitute families with a monthly family income upto Rs. 1250/-, with loan assistance from HUDCO.

The year-wise, district-wise details of EWS houses constructed during the last three years are given below:

District	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Ludhiana	2364	—	—
Patiala	—	421	—
Ropar	—	—	434

(b) and (d) No Central assistance is given to State Governments for construction of houses in urban areas.

(c) Housing being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to formulate and execute housing schemes for various sections of the society, according to the priorities of the State Government and available resources.